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EO 12958 DECL: 04/03/2018
TAGS KDEM, PGOV, PHUM, PINR, RS
SUBJECT: SOLZHENITSYN AND METROPOLITAN KIRILL ON RUSSIA,
MEDVEDEV, UKRAINE

Classified By: Ambassador William J. Burns. Reason: 1.4 (d).

¶1. (C) Summary: In separate conversations recently, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and Metropolitan Kirill criticized the decision to recognize Kosovo
Solzhenitsyn on Town Hall Democracy, Medvedev, Kosovo, Ukraine and NATO

¶2. (C) In a recent meeting, writer Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn received the Ambassador at his home outside Moscow. Solzhenitsyn, who will turn 90 t

¶3. (C) As he had in a 2007 Der Spiegel interview, Solzhenitsyn positively contrasted the eight-year reign of Putin with those of Gorbachev and

¶4. (C) Solzhenitsyn enthusiastically told the Ambassador of the need to develop grassroots democracy through instruments of local self-governm

¶5. (C) President-elect Medvedev struck Solzhenitsyn as a "nice, young man." Solzhenitsyn had not met him, but he guessed he was up to the "enc

¶6. (C) Solzhenitsyn repeated to the Ambassador his objection to independence for Kosovo. Why, he asked rhetorically, should the Serbs be held

¶7. (C) Solzhenitsyn told the Ambassador that he continues to work actively in the archives, and it was clear from the topical references spir
Kirill on Ecumenicalism, Medvedev, the Hazards of Prosperity

¶8. (C) In a separate meeting, Metropolitan Kirill re-visited themes he had touched on in the media and in earlier conversations with Ambassadoc

¶9. (C) Kirill spoke highly of a UN-sponsored effort to bridge the gap between East and West by seeking an alliance of civilizations. Kirill wa

¶10. (C) Kirill joined Solzhenitsyn in identifying enduring poverty as one of the chief challenges that President Medvedev will face. He called

¶11. (C) While Kirill largely echoed Solzhenitsyn's arguments against Kosovo independence, he was even sharper than Solzhenitsyn about NATO exp